

# In The Spotlight

## Champion, Inc. Awarded 2008 Business of the Year Award

Each year, Michigan Works! The Job Force Board and the Dickinson Area Partnership highlight a business that makes a difference in the Dickinson region by exemplifying business and community excellence.

In 2005, they received the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Build America Award, and in 2004, the Build Michigan Award for the St. Mary and St. Joseph Church right here in Iron Mountain.

Champion, Inc was also awarded The American Society for Interior Design Bronze Award for Pine Grove Country Club, and the 2006 AGC Summer Work Program Award for NMU's New Student Apartments Project in Marquette.

They are on the Safety Honor Roll and have received six Safety of Excellence Awards by AGC of Michigan, and in March of 2007, American Concrete International presented them with the 2006 Concrete Design Award for their new building and parking lot, also right here in Iron Mountain.

"Champion, Inc. is honored to have been chosen the 2008 Dickinson County Business of the Year," stated Dan Wentarmini. "At Champion, we are focused on contributing to Dickinson County for many years to come. Currently, one of our missions is to attract young people back to the area. We have unlimited opportunities for Dickinson County graduates to come back home and grow and succeed in their respective careers."

"It is important for the community to recognize the accomplishments of the small businesses that contribute to the economy of the Upper Peninsula by supporting their local workforce," states Will Carne, Job Force Board President.

Champion, Inc. has celebrated many achievements throughout their years of operation in the Dickinson area.

In 1999, Champion Inc. received the Detroit honor award for construction services of Michigan Tech's Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building in Houghton, and in 2002 they received the Steel Systems Excellence Award for Michigan Tech's Rozsa Performing Arts Center.



From left to right: Bruce Ortenburger, CEO of Dickinson Area Partnership; Dan Wentarmini, CFO of Champion, Inc.; Orrin Bailey, CEO of Michigan Works! The Job Force Board.

Dan Wentarmini, CFO of Champion, Inc., accepted the 2008 Business of the Year Award on behalf of the company at the Dickinson Area Partnership Puttin' on da Ritz Celebration, March 15th.

## Local Tourism RSA Identified as Best Practice During MiRSA Hospitality Webinar



On March 25, 2008, the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth's MiRSA® conducted a Hospitality Industry focused webinar. The Delta County Tourism RSA was among its participants.

"While listening to and viewing the presentations, I was very proud of the efforts of the Tourism Regional Skills Alliance for Delta County," commented Vickie Micheau, Delta County Chamber Director and Chair of the Delta County Tourism RSA. "As with other

RSAs, we place a great emphasis on results that ensure employees get the necessary training to do the work employers need for success today and in the future. By working with our convener, Michigan Works! The Job Force Board, the Delta County Tourism RSA does that and more."

Vickie found it satisfying to nod her head while the presenters were encouraging the audience to adopt their best practices simply because it's what Delta County has been implementing. "We continue to offer and enhance an annual customer service workshop and now, because of the establishment of our Tourism RSA, we can take it to the next level," she says.

Front line employees working in the tourism and hospitality sector have a much greater awareness of the critical role they play in the promotion of Delta County. Now, the Tourism RSA's goals also include promotion of the significant economic contribution of the tourism industry, how the industry fosters entrepreneurialism and provides for opportunities in career ladders.

Vickie went on to say, "We are pleased with the visionary leadership in our region as our RSA goals are closely aligned with Travel Michigan's strategic plan. We're even happier to learn that the best practices identified in the State are already followed right here in the central Upper Peninsula."